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ACCOUNT

OF THE

GREAT FIRE

IN NEWBURYPORT.

Printed and sold by W. & J. Gilman,
wholesale and retail, at their Book-Store,
Federal-Street, Newburyport.



ACCOUNT

OF THE

GREAT FIRE,

WHICH DESTROYED ABOUT 250 BUILDINGS IN

NEWBURYPORT,

ON THE

Night of the 31st of May, 1811.

TAKEN PRINCIPALLY FROM THE STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE

APPEARED IN THE PUBLIC NEWSPAPERS.

Second Edition, Improved.

NEWBURYPORT, PRINTED BY W. & J. GILMAN, FEDERAL-STREET....1811.

N55 A1



AN ACCOUNT OF

THE GREAT FIRE,

IN NEWBURYPORT.

ON Friday evening, May 31, 1811, at half past 9 o'clock, the citizens of the town were alarmed by the cry of *Fire!* which proved to have taken effect at the place where they had so repeatedly been summoned in the course of the present season on a similar occasion; and where it has for some time past been anxiously feared some vile incendiary intended to accomplish the purpose

which is now effected.

The fire commenced in an unimproved stable in Mechanic Row, owned by David Lawrence, which, at the time the fire was discovered, was found to be completely enveloped in flames. soon extended to the market and to State-street, and spread in such various directions as to baffle all exertions to subdue it. In a few hours, it prostrated every building on the north side of Cornhill, and both sides of State-street, from Cornhill to the market; it then proceeded into Essex street, on the north east side, to the house of Capt. James Kettell, where it was checked-into Middle-street as far as Fair-street, on the north east side and within a few rods thereof on the south-west sideinto Liberty-street within one house of Independent-street, and down Water-street, as far as Hudson's wharf, sweeping off every building within The following extract descriptive of the scene is selected from the Masonic Address delivered before the Brethren of the Lodges of St. Peter and St. Mark, in this town, assembled to commemorate the nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24th:

"The uncertainty of earthly enjoyments has lately been forcibly impressed upon us. When we agreed to celebrate this natal day of our favourite saint, we were moving smoothly along in the common course of business and pleasure. The scene has changed, a wide and desolating conflagration has swept away the hard earnings of many years; brought competence to poverty, and opulence to scantiness. Who, that witnessed, will lose the remembrance of that night of horrors; when the aged, whose happiness is half formed of local attachments, saw the mansions where their sires were born' wrapt in flames; when helpless infancy and exhausted decrepitude mingled their wailings with the noise and confusion of the night; and the mother affrighted and dismayed pressed her babe closer to her breast, and fled for shelter and safety, she knew not where."

The loss of property is immense, and cannot fall short of 1,000,000 dollars. Upwards of 90 families are driven from their habitations with the loss of a very considerable part of their furniture and clothing, and many of them deprived of the means of furnishing themselves with the necessaries of life.

We have endeavoured to collect as particular a statement of the sufferers as circumstances would permit, and now present it to our readers.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL SUFFERERS.

MECHANICK Row.

David Lawrence, 2 stables unoccupied, and 2 stores and dwelling-house. Joseph Jackman, occupant of store and house, tavern and groceries. Nathan Follansbee, occupant of store, groceries.

Matthew Perkins, dwelling-house. Samuel

Palmer and Adam Sylvester, occupants.

MARKET SQUARE.

Josiah Smith, barn and store. Joseph Lesley, occupant of store, cooper. Edward Rand, store, hard ware. Heirs of Bishop Norton, store. Daniel Smith, occupant, apothecary, Heirs of Benja-Dole, store. Enoch Plummer, jun. occupant, groceries. John M. O'Brien, attorney's office. John Peabody and William Stickney, 2 stores. Ephraim Titcomb, occupant, groceries. James Locke, occupant, dry goods. Daniel Balch, 2 stores, watch maker. Timothy Webb, occupant, book-store and bindery. John Peabody, 2 stores. 1 unoccupied. Edward Toppan, jr. occupant, dry goods. Josiah and David Little, 3 stores. James Kimball, occupant, dry goods. Francis Todd, occupant, dry goods. Edward Little and Co. book-store. Enoch Pike, in chamber, taylor. Heirs of Samuel Tufts, dwelling-house & 2 stores. Samuel H. Foster, occupant, dry goods. Joseph Hervey, occupant, taylor. John Jenkins and Mrs. Smith, dwelling-house and 2 stores. Anthony Smith, occupant of store, hard ware and groceries. Aaron Davis, jun. occupant, apothecary. Union Insurance Company, office, dwelling-house, and store. Nathaniel Bradstreet, occupant of house, physician. Enoch Plummer, occupant of store, groceries. Perkins & Dean, 2 stores, hard ware, (one of these stands a monument of the advantages of fire-proof buildings, and was principally preserved.) Abraham Perkins and Anna Sewall, 3 stores, 1 unoccupied. Moses Moody, jun. occupant, groceries. Thomas Hale, occupant, hatter. Abner Wood and Joshua Greenleaf, 2 stores, ship chandlery, &c.

STATE-STREET.

John Peabody, 3 stores. Thomas & Whipple, occupant book-store, the chamber improved for the Newburyport Library. John Chickering, occupant, dry goods. Samuel B. Stevens, occupant, hard ware. Benjamin Lord, occupant of chamber, taylor. Union Insurance Company, block called Blunt's Buildings, 3 stores, dwelling-house, printing-office and engraver. Joseph Hooper, occupant of store, crockery. Jonathan Coolidge, occupant, dry goods. Moses Osgood, occupant, dry goods. Howard S. Robinson, occupant of chambers, dwelling house. Charles Norris and Co. occupant, printing-office. David Fairman, occupant, engraver. Phenix Insurance Company, block of buildings, office, 3 stores, chambers, &c. Philip Bagley & Son, occupant of store, auctioneers. Joseph Jackman, occupant, dry goods. Caleb Cross, occupant, post office. Prince Stetson, occupant of chambers, furniture. Ralph Cross, occupant, custom house. 4th story, Madison Hall. Anthony & Moses Davenport, dwelling-house, wood-house, &c. Prince Stetson, occupant, tavern. Joseph Clement, dwelling-house and 2 stores.

Osgood & Bracket, occupant of store; shoe makers. John Knowlton, occupant of store and part of dwelling-house, cabinet maker. Samuel Clement, dwelling-house. Thomas Perkins and S. Clement, occupants. David Wood and John Peabody, 2 stores. Jonathan Woodman, jun. occupant, silversmith. Nathaniel Newman, occupant, hairdresser. John Fitz, store, saddler. Ebenezer Dole, store. Daniel N. Dole, occupant, silversmith. Obadiah Pearson, occupant of chamber, tailor. John Smith and Jonathan Marsh, 2 stores. Gilman White, occupant, crockery. Moses Cole, occupant, painter and gilder.

CORNHILL and PLEASANT-STREET.

I. Young, J. Gage, and J. Toppan, 14 stores. 1 unoccupied. William Francis, occupant store, hair dresser. William Hoit, occupant, dry goods. Francis B. Somerby, occupant, dry goods. Moses Kimball, jun. occupant, dry goods. Pierce and Gordon, occupant, dry goods. John Porter, occupant, dry goods. Paul Noyes, occupant, dry goods. Arthur Gilman, occupant, dry goods. Joseph T. Pike, occupant chamber, tailor. Paul Bishop, occupant chamber, tailor. Edward St. Loe Livermore, occupant, attorney's office. Little and Bannister, do. do. John Stuart, do. do. James Hodge, occupant store, shoe maker.

Essex Street.

Amos Atkinson, store. Stephen Greely, occupant, shoe maker. Samuel Mansur, house & store. N. H. Wright, occupant, printer. John Colby, do. painter. James Kettell, barn and wood house.

MIDDLE-STREET.

Josiah & David Little, 4 stores, and 2 dwellinghouses. Edmund Nichols, occupant, dwellinghouse. James Kimball, occupant store, groceries. W. & J. Gilman, occupants, book-store and printing-office. Nathan Ames, occupant, shoe maker. Ephraim W. Allen, occupant chambers, herald office. D. W. Jones, occupant house and shop, milliner. Thomas Dodge, dwelling-house and work shop. Thomas Lankester, sett of joiner's tools. Nicholas Tracy, dwelling-house, unoccupied. Samuel Noyes, dwelling-house and shop. Mary Wessels, occupant shop, groceries. Hannah Bradbury, dwelling-house and shop, milliner. Samuel Batchelder, dwelling-house and store, groceries. Nancy and Eliza Batchelder, occupants dwelling-house. Nicholas Pierce, dwelling-house, shop and store. Widow Nilage, occupant shop. Henry Bolt, dwelling-house and shop. Joshua Greenleaf, store. Daniel Perkins, occup. saddler. Mrs. Moulton, dwelling-house and shop. Wid, Stickney, dwelling-house and barn. Enoch Pike, occupant. Jeremiah Young, dwelling-house and store. Widow Johnson, dwelling-house and shop. Moses Cole, Wid. Newman, Salome Noyes, occupants. Gilman White, dwelling-house. John Denny, dwelling-house. Rev. John Peak, occupant. Hugh Pritchard, 2 dwelling-houses. Thomas Pritchard and Anthony Francis, occupants, dwelling-house. Ebenezer Pearson, store and bake house. Clark Morss, Elijah Bliss, Southey Parker, Daniel Abbot, occupants, cabinet and chair makers. Benjamin Abbot, dwelling-house and barn. Joseph Noyes, 4th, dwelling-house, barn, paint store, &c. Woodbridge Noyes, stable.

Mrs. Colman, occupant of house. Heirs of Moses Tenny, dwelling-house. Wid. Baldwin, Southey Parker, occupants. Ebenezer Dole, 2 stores. E. Dole, G. Parker, and S. Dole, occupants, cabinet and chair makers. E. Dole, P. Tenney, and P. Thurlo, occupants, groceries.

CENTRE STREET.

Wid. Rogers, 2 dwelling-houses. Humphrey B. Haskell, Thomas Marshal, Mrs. Rogers, and Mr. Henderson, occupants. Enoch C. Toppan, dwelling-house and barn. Bartholomew Brown, occupant. Richard Pike, 2 dwelling-houses and 2 barns. Thomas Boardman, Wid. Toppan, and Wid. Kennedy, occupants. Samuel Wheeler, dwelling-house, bake-house, and store. John Pearson, jun. occupant, baker. Mr. Hendrick, occupant. Heirs of Bulkeley Emerson, dwellinghouse and school-house. Robert S. Stone, occupant. Edward Rand, dwelling-house, store, &c. Widow Armitage and John Norman, occupants. Heirs of Joseph Johnson, dwelling-house, barn, &c. Benj. Appleton, Moses Todd, and Wm. Randall, occupants. Theodore Pearson, jun. dwellinghouse, bake-house, &c. E. C. Beals, occupant. William Boardman, dwelling-house. Heirs of John Rogers, dwelling-house. Florence Dawset and Daniel Ford, occupants. Eleazer Johnson, dwelling-house, shop, and store. Moses Moore, Joseph Dogget, jun. and Elias Pike, occupants of house. Jeremiah Gray, occupant of shop. Isaac Stone, house and store. George Warner, occupant.

LIBERTY STREET.

Baptist Meeting House. William Stickney, house and shop. Ezekiel Prince, 2 houses and 2 stores. E. W. Allen, occupant. Joshua Greenleaf, house, barn, &c. Heirs of Bulkeley Emerson, house and barn. Joseph Emerson, and Miss Emersons, occupants.

WATER STREET.

Daniel Burnham, store, groceries. John Wood, store, groceries. Wm. Bayley, store, groceries. Wm. Watkins, 2 houses, 2 stores, 2 back stores, and wood house. 1 store unoccupied. Humphrey Cook, occupant store, hatter. Andrews Palmer and Joseph Davis, occupants of house. Samuel Whitney, a sett of joiner's tools. Offin Boardman, 3 houses, 3 stores, 1 house and 1 store unoccupied. John Odiorne and Samuel Crowther, occupants of houses. Joseph Edwards, occupant store, groceries. Joseph Brown, do. auctioneer. Joseph O'Brien, house and store. J. O'Brien and Son, occupants of store. Heirs of Benj. Harrod, house. Abraham Jackson, store, unoccupied. Jonathan Gage and others, house and store. Pingrey & Foster, occupants of store. Mr. Tucker and Mr. Russell, occupants of house. Margaret Atwood, house and store. John Hart, occupant of house, tavern. Benjamin G. Sweetser, occupant of store, groceries. Benja. Appleton, store, hatter. Capt. Dunlap, house and shop. Mrs. Seward, occupant, boarding house. Emanuel Seward, occupant, shoemaker. Nath'l Carter, house, 2 stores, and barn. Wm. Boardman, occupant store, hard wares, groceries, paints, &c. Joseph Marquand, 2 houses and 3 stores. 1 store unoc.

cupied. Moses Sweet, occupant store, groceries. Hannah Prince, occupant house and store, boarding house. David Moody, barn, malt house, and store. Thomas Lord, occupant of store, hatter. Thomas Moody, occupant malt house. Moses Clark, house and shop, groceries. Abraham Jack son, house and 2 stores, house and 1 store unoc cupied. Mrs. Richardson, occupant store, milliner. Joseph Toppan, house, shop, and back store, dry goods. Heirs of Joseph Kent, house and 2 stores. Winthrop P. Gray, John Brown, Amos Dennis, and John Abbot, occupants. Stephen Gerrish & Sons, house, shop, and store, dry goods. Heirs of Joseph Greenough, house and shop. John Greenough, occupant, hatter. Clement Star, house and shop. T. and A. Wheeler, occupants, groceries and boarding house. Heirs of John Toppan, house and shop. Mrs. Mitchell, occupant, Jere. Gray, occupant. Benj. H. Toppan, occupant, coppersmith. Richard Pike, house, shop, store, and 2 back stores, stores unoccupied. Widow Greenleaf, occupant of house and shop, groceries. Timothy T. Ford, house and shop, dry goods. Abner Wood & Joshua Greenleaf, 3 brick stores, unoccupied.

FERRY WHARF.

John Wood and others, warehouse. Samuel Brown, store, groceries and ship chandlery. A. and E. Wheelwright, 3 stores, groceries, iron, &c. Jacob Stone, store, groceries. Zebedee Cook, store, groceries. Robert Dodge, store, flour. Joseph Stanwood, jun. occupant, sail loft. Thomas Pritchard, rigging loft.

BOARDMAN'S WHARF.

Offin Boardman, 6 stores & warchouses. Amos Tappan, Benjamin G. Boardman, John Odiorne, occupants. B. G. Boardman, a schooner about 100 tons burnt to the water's edge.

O'BRIEN'S WHARF.

Joseph O'Brien, 1 warehouse.

JACKSON'S WHARF.

Abraham Jackson, 2 warehouses.

JEWETT'S WHARE. Jona. Gage, 1 warehouse.
ATWOOD'S WHARE.

Margaret Atwood, 5 warehouses. John Wood and B. G. Sweetser, occupants.

CARTER'S WHARF.

William Boardman, warehouse. Enoch C. Toppan, shop, blockmaker. Nathaniel Carter, warehouse and barn.

MARQUAND'S WHARF.

Joseph Marquand, 6 warehouses, rigging loft, counting room, &c. Henry Furlong and Benjamin Hale, damage to brig Washington, by loss of mainmast, rigging, &c.

From the great extent of injury by the late desolating fire, although Charity may have its perfect work, and donations made in every town, yet probably 20 years of prosperity will not repair the breach made on this memorable night; still it is consolatory to observe the sympathy for our distresses manifested by our benevolent fellow-citizens in many neighbouring towns. In Boston, Salem, Portsmouth, Haverhill, &c. we have already heard of general meetings of the citizens being called, to devise measures for our relief. Such tokens of kindness cannot be forgotten. [Herald, June 12.

On Monday morning, June 3, at 9 o'clock, the inhabitants of this town assembled to take into consideration the state of the sufferers by the fire, and to devise means for their relief. At this meeting,

Jeremiah Nelson,
Isaac Adams,
Eleazer Johnson,
Jacob Stone,
Nicholas Johnson, jr.
William Bartlet,
Moses Brown,
William Coombs,
John Pettingel,
Samuel Coffin,
Joshua Carter,
James Prince.
Michael Hodge, jr.
Benjamin Peirce,
William Russell,

Joseph Dana,
William Woart,
Isaac Stone,
Nicholas Johnson,
Aaron Pardee,
Stephen Howard,
Robert Foster,
Samuel Tenney,
John Stuart,
Samuel L. Knap,
Daniel A. White,
Nicholas Pike,
Thomas M. Clark,
Joseph Williams,
William Cross,

were chosen a committee on behalf of the town to solicit that aid, of a benevolent public, which the distress of a great portion of our citizens so forcibly claims, and to adopt the necessary measures for affording immediate relief to the destitute, and to distribute among the sufferers at their discretion, all monies & other property which may be received.

The Selectmen of the town, are authorized and appointed to receive all monies and other donations for the use of the sufferers; and Wm. Bartlet, Wm. Woart, Moses Brown, Benj. Peirce, T. M. Clark, Nicholas Johnson, Joseph Williams, John Pettingel, and Isaac Adams, are appointed to solicit subscriptions and receive donations from the inhabitants of Newburyport.

THE inhabitants of Newburyport, in townmeeting assembled, this 3d day of June, A.D. 1811, offer their siccere acknowledgments of gratitude, for the friendly assistance received in the late tremendous and desolating fire. They would express their thanks to the people in the neighbouring towns, Newbury, Salisbury, and Amesbury, for their accustomed vigilance and exertion; for they were like brothers rescuing brothers from the flames; to the people of Rowley, Ipswich, Danvers, Beverly, Haverhill, Topsfield, Bradford, and the towns of the State of New-Hampshire in our vicinity, for they flew to our assistance as soon as information of our distress was given; to the people of Salem, for they rendered us the most active and necessary assistance in guarding our lives and property in the night succeeding the destruction, when we were exhausted by trouble and fatigue. The conduct of all our friends, who afforded us help in time of need, will be held as an example for the good and benevolent as long as the memory of our calamity lasts; and they have our best wishes for their welfare, and our prayers to Almighty God that they may be preserved from similar evils. A true copy of record—Attest,

A true copy of record—Attest,

John Fitz, Town Clerk.

Newburyport, June 4, 1811. The sufferers by the late fire, who want immediate relief in provisions, are requested to apply at the Store of Capt. William Russell, Market-square, for the same; those persons who are disposed to bestow provisions, will please to send them to the above place. William Russell, Aaron Pardee, William Woart, Beniamin Peirce, Eleazer Johnson, Committee.

In a town meeting held on Friday June 7, to adopt measures for security against similar calamities, it was *Voted*, that no buildings in future should be placed or erected within the limits of the town, more than ten feet high, unless the same be built with *brick* or *stone*; and a Committee appointed to make application to the General Court the present session to obtain an act for that purpose. An act has since passed for this purpose.

Sol.

Thursday the 13th of June was set apart as a day of Fasting and Prayer, in consequence of the heavy calamity with which this town has been visited. In the forenoon a Sermon was delivered in Rev. Mr. Dana's meeting-house by the Rev. Mr. Miltimore, of Belleville; in the afternoon the Rev. Dr. Buckminster, of Portsmouth, preached at the Rev. Dr. Spring's meeting-house. In both instances there were very crowded audiences.

From the Herald, June 21.

Among the charitable donations from the sympathizing and generous, which our suffering fellow-citizens have received, that from the two families of Friends (commonly known by the appellation of Shakers) who reside at Canterbury and Enfield, in New-Hampshire, has excited emotions of the most lively gratitude. They brought us large quantities of turniture, food and raiment; articles of substantial excellence and sterling value. Charity belongs exclusively to no party and no sect; her residence is in the benevolent heart, and where misery is she comes, to heal the wounded, to clothe the naked, and feed the hungry.

SALEM ADDRESS.

A committee of two persons, from each religious society in Salem, has been chosen to receive Subscriptions for the relief of the Inhabitants of this town; and the following Address has been presented through the medium of the papers.

To the Inhabitants of Salem.

A Committee chosen at the Meeting held at the Court-house, on the 5th June, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions for the indigent sufferers at the late fire at Newburyport, submit the following ADDRESS for the consideration of their fellow-citizens.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them .- This is the distinguishing characteristic of our holy religion, and marks its divine origin. - Almighty God, who is the sovereign disposer of all things, and whose awful judgments surpass the scrutiny of human investigation, has visited our afflicted neighbours of Newburyport with a most desolating fire. In the short interval of one melancholy night, a devouring flame has laid waste their once comfortable habitations, and involved in overwhelming ruin their dwelling places, their garments, their furni-ture, and provisions of every description. Where once the cheerful fire-side smiled with plenty, contentment and security, dust and ashes is the only monument that now meets their weeping eyes, and presents a dreary prospect of future suffering. Unto whom now in this hour of their afflictive visitation can they apply for relief, for comfort and

consolation? Unto you, their sympathizing christian friends, they turn their supplicating eyes, imploring that assistance which your feeling hearts will most generously afford them. Let not their hopes be reposed in vain, but let the liberal hand of charity which willingly recognizes a brother in distress, be extended to assist them: let their domestic comforts be once more enjoyed through your well-timed liberality. Silence the suggestions of despair by congenial sympathy, and impart of your portions, of which God has graciously made you the accountable Stewards, to relieve their distresses. Then will you receive and enjoy that grateful pleasure and satisfaction which enriches both the giver and the receiver.

Per order. JONATHAN WALDO.

Letter to the Committee of Boston for collecting Subscriptions for the relief of the Sufferers by Fire in this town, as published in the Palladium, August 2d.

NEWBURYPORT, JULY 30, 1811.

The Selectmen of Newburyport acknowledge the receipt of twenty-four thousand three hundred and five dollars and fifty-five cents from the citizens of Boston, to be appropriated to the relief of the sufferers by the late fire. At a time when a spirit of Charity, as large as our exigencies were imperious, seems to have pervaded our sister States; whilst the benevolence of every part of the country has been most liberally displayed towards us, your bounty has been eminently distinguished, not only in its extent, but in the promptitude with

which it was exercised, and the respectful kindness with which it has been bestowed. We feel ourselves, indeed, deeply indebted to our fellow-citizens for the peculiarly grateful manner in which their charities have been communicated, as well as for their very liberal amount. In the blessings of of that Philanthropy, which measures its benevolence only by the wants of the distressed, and in imparting its bounty regards the feelings as well as the necessities of its brethren, we have participated on the present occasion beyond, as we believe, any other subjects of afflictions; and it will be consecrated in our remembrance long after the sufferings which excited it shall be forgotten.

Although Charity, even in "its perfect work," must fail to afford complete relief in a calamity which swept before it not only the means of support from hundreds, but every thing that was endeared to them by habit, and hallowed by affection—yet the spirit which has mingled its sympathics with ours and shared our burdens, is, we feel,

wholly unexampled.

It consoles us to reflect, gentlemen, while enabled to return you only the humble tribute of our thanks, that it is a spirit which carries with it its own reward—that it has for its promise the favour of Heaven—and that in its exercise it is doubly and thrice blessed.

With sentiments of esteem and respect, we are your obedient servants,

Jeremiah Nelson, Isaac Adams, Eteazer Johnson, Jacob Stone, Nicholas Johnson, jr.

Selectmen of the town of Newburyport.

[From the Herald of August 23.]

Next to the pleasure we have derived from witnessing the unexampled liberality of our fellow-citizens towards the sufferers by fire in this town, is that which we feel in being able to assure the public that the principles and proceedings of the Committee of the town, in making distribution of the monies entrusted to them, have met the entire approbation of the benevolent donors, who have been made acquainted with them. Committees of the contributors in Salem and Boston have been pleased to express their decided and cordial approbation, which will, we trust, give satisfaction to our other numerous benefactors, who could not be so conveniently consulted.

From the Committee in Boston the following Vote expressive of their opinion has been received:

At a meeting of the Committee for the disposition of the funds collected in the town of Boston, for the sufferers by Fire at Newburyport, at the Hall of the Branch Bank, on Thursday, 1 P.M. August 15, 1811—

SAMUEL ELLIOT, Chairman.

Voted, The Committee being entrusted with the monies contributed by the Citizens of the town of Boston, towards the relief of their suffering brethren of Newburyport, and charged with the disposition of the same; after careful enquiry they assigned the immediate execution of the trust reposed in them, to a Committee appointed by the sufferers; the principles and details of the proceedings of said Committee have been examined at their request; all of which are most cordially approved of, as being happily calculated to fulfil the intentions of the Contributors, and to give complete satisfaction to all concerned.

EBENEZER STOCKER, Secretary.

SINCE THE GREAT FIRE,

Several attempts have been made to burn the barn of Mr. Enoch Peirce, in the south-east part of the town, but without effect. A timely discovery prevented the inevitable destruction of a large quantity of property, and a great number of buildings compactly situated.

About 5 o'clock, on Friday morning, July 12, an old building on Capt. William Coombs' wharf, and occupied by him as a stable, was set on fire, and consumed; fortunately the progress of the fire was stopped, although surrounded by wooden buildings, and at a short distance from the former.

About half past 4 o'clock, on Tuesday morning, July 23, the inhabitants of the town were again alarmed by the cry of Fire! This again was a barn belonging to Capt. Sam'l W. Thompson, within a few rods of the last, and occupied by Capt. Paul.

Merrill, which was principally consumed.

On the morning of the 24th July, a youth of about 15 years of age was apprehended and examined before a magistrate, on a charge of setting fire to the barn of Capt. Thompson. He has confessed that he not only set fire to this, but those belonging to Mr. Peirce and Capt. Coombs. He was learning a baker's trade, and these fires were very near the bake-house where he worked. He

states that he had no agency in the fire which destroyed so large a portion of the town, and that no person was associated with him in the attempts which he has confessed. He is now committed to await his trial at the Supreme Judicial Court in November next.

Since the late dreadful fire, the town-watch has been enlarged to about three times the former number, and individuals, with a zeal worthy the occasion, have associated, to guard every night, those parts of the town where incendiary attempts might probably be made with most success. Particularly that part of the town where the beforementioned fires broke out, was guarded with double vigilance; yet to the astonishment of every citizen, early in the morning, soon after the numerous watch had left their posts, we were alarmed by the cry of fire. It is now ascertained that the boy who is now in confinement, knew the time when the watch were dismissed, and before the inhabitants generally arose, took fire from his oven, and secretly communicated it to the barns which have been consumed. Although the great agitation which has been excited in consequence of those frequent alarms, is now in some measure allayed, the public may yet be assured, that the vigilance of the inhabitants in guarding the town will not be relaxed.

THE STREET WAS A RUIN. By R. T. PAINE, Esq

THE fireet was a ruin, and night's horrid glare, Illumin'd with terror the face of despair;

While houseless, bewailing,

Mute pity affailing,

A mother's wild shrieks pierc'd the merciless air .-Beside her stood Edward, imploring each wind, To wake his lov'd fifter who linger'd behind;

> Awake my poor Mary, Oh, fly to me Mary,

In the arms of your Edward a pillow you'll find.

In vain he call'd, for now the volum'd fmoke, Crackling between the parting rafters broke:

Through the rent feams the forked flames aspire, All, all is lost! the roof's on fire, the roof's on fire!

A flash from the fire brought Mary to view, She fcream'd as around her the flames fiercely blew!

> Where art thou mother? Oh fly to me brother!

Oh, fave your poor Mary, who lives but for you;

Leave not your poor Mary, Ah! fave your poor Mary!

Her vision'd form descrying,

On wings of horror flying,

The youth erects his frantic gaze,

Then plunges in the mad'ning blaze !

Aloft he dauntless soars.

The flaming room explores;

The roof in cinders crushes,

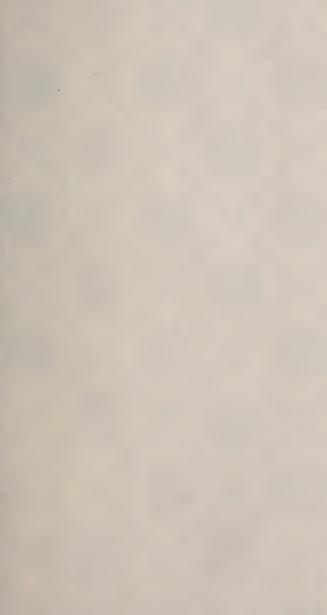
Through tumbling walls he rushes;

She's fafe from fears alarms; She faints in Edward's arms!

Oh, Nature, fuch thy trium; are,

Thy fimplest child can bravely e.

10/ 89/11







LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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